

REMARKS

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed June 19, 2006. At the time of the Office Action, Claims 1-21 were pending in this Application. Claims 1-21 were rejected. Claims 1, 8, and 14 have been amended to further define various features of Applicants' invention. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-21 were rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication 2001/0050856 filed by Yasuro Matsuzaki ("Matsuzaki"). Applicants respectfully traverse and submit the cited art does not teach all of the elements of the claimed embodiment of the invention.

"A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference." *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 U.S.P.Q.2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987). Furthermore, "the identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the ... claim." *Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co. Ltd.*, 868 F.2d 1226, 1236, 9 U.S.P.Q.2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989). Applicant respectfully submits that the cited art as anticipated by the Examiner cannot anticipate the rejected Claims, because the cited art does not show all the elements of the present Claims.

The Examiner stated that Matsuzaki discloses all the limitations of the independent claims. Applicants amended the independent claims to more clearly define the subject matter. Thus, it has been defined in the independent claims 1 that the first phase locked loop is for providing an internal clock signal to a first set of at least one of the circuit units and the second PLL units for providing an internal clock signal to a second set of at least one of the circuit units. Moreover, it has been defined in the revised claim 1 that the second set and the first set are mutually exclusive. No new matter has been added. This limitation has been disclosed in the originally submitted specification. For example, it can easily be derived from

the Figs. of the present application that the circuit units to which each of the PLLs is connected are different from each other and, therefore, are mutually exclusive.

The prior art reference to Matsuzaki (US 2001/0050856) cited in the U.S. Office Action is not pertinent to the claimed subject matter. Matsuzaki relates to a memory module having a number of memory chips 120 to 127. A first PLL 15 and a second PLL 16 are provided on a memory module board 160 of the memory module and are connected to a clock input (CLK). The first PLL 15 provides a clock used to input data to the memory chips, while the second PLL 16 provides a clock used to output data from the memory chips. Thus, the first PLL 15 is for providing an internal clock signal (for inputting) to all of the memory chips 120 to 127 and the second PLL 16 is for providing an internal clock signal (for outputting) to all of the memory chips 120 to 127.

In contrast, according to the present invention, the first PLL is for providing an internal clock signal to a first number of circuit units, while the second PLL is for providing an internal clock signal to a second number of circuit units (which are different from the circuit units of the first number). Thus, according to the invention, the load of each PLL clock output can be reduced and the average line length between each of the PLL units and the circuit units can be reduced.

According to Matsuzaki, different clocks for inputting and outputting data are provided to all of the memory chips, making use of different PLLs. This approach is quite different from the inventive approach of providing an internal clock signal to a first number of circuit units by a first PLL unit and providing an internal clock signal to a second number of circuit units by a second PLL unit.

In view of the above, Matsuzaki neither anticipates nor renders obvious the subject matter of the amended independent claims. Applicants respectfully submit that the dependent Claims are allowable at least to the extent of the independent Claim to which they refer, respectively. Thus, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the dependent Claims.

Applicants reserve the right to make further arguments regarding the Examiner's rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102 or §103, if necessary, and do not concede that the Examiner's proposed combinations are proper.

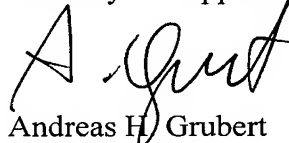
CONCLUSION

Applicants have made an earnest effort to place this case in condition for allowance in light of the amendments and remarks set forth above. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the pending claims.

Applicants believe there are no fees due at this time, however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees necessary or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-2148 of Baker Botts L.L.P.

If there are any matters concerning this Application that may be cleared up in a telephone conversation, please contact Applicant's attorney at 512.322.2545.

Respectfully submitted,
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